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PP RUEHWEB

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P 201933Z APR 07
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3307
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 6720
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 4049
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 7938
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 5187
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2417
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 2543
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 3428
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4556
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 5056
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 9639
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHINGTON DC
RHMFIUU/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0272
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
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RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS LA PAZ 001112

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STATE FOR WHA/AND
TREASURY FOR SGOOCH
ENERGY FOR CDAY AND SLADISLAW

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [CASC](#) [EPET](#) [ENRG](#) [BL](#)

SUBJECT: CHACO SITUATION APRIL 20: NO VIOLENCE, BUT NO
RESOLUTION

REF: A. LA PAZ 1086
[1](#)B. LA PAZ 1103

Following two days of violence in the Chaco province of Tarija, the situation was calm on April 19, although the Chaco continued the strike and road blockades that it had begun on April 16.

- The GOB called a meeting of Tarija Prefect Mario Cossio and local leaders from the disputing provinces, Chaco and O'Connor, for 10:00 a.m. on April 20. Cossio and leaders from the Chaco refused the invitation and planned to hold a separate meeting in the Chaco. Thus, no resolution of the internal border dispute was achieved at the morning meeting. The GOB called a second meeting for April 23 at 10:00, in hopes of achieving participation from all sides of the dispute. Representatives of the Chaco told the press that they were unlikely to attend the April 23 meeting.

- Minister of Government Alfredo Rada reported to the press that the damage to Transredes' installations was almost USD 150,000. Minister of Development Planning Gabriel Loza reported that the taking of a pumping station in the Chaco on April 18 will reduce gas exports to Argentina from 5 million cubic meters per day to around 1.2 million cubic meters and to Brazil from 24.6 million cubic meters per day to 24. In a conversation with Econoff, Transredes confirmed that exports to Argentina would be reduced.

- The press reported on April 20 that, in addition to the one death April 17, four protesters were in critical condition from bullet wounds. The mayor of Villamontes, where the death occurred, dubbed the victim a "hero in defense of Chaqueno territory."

